MARVEL COMICS
32
SEP
PUNISHER 2099 A.D.
AGAINST
SHIELD
DOOM
DIRECT EDITION
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MORGAN '95

ONE STEP IN MY DIRECTION AND THIS NEURO-DISRUPTOR SCRAMBLES HER BRAINS.
HE'S LOST HIS MIND!
KILL THE DIRECTOR! KILL JAKE GALLOWS!
GRAVITY BITES

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LISTEN TO ME! DOOM IS LEADING THIS COUNTRY TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
SHIELD HAS TO TAKE CONTROL! ONLY ONE MAN CAN SAVE AMERICA AND THAT'S ME!
LEVEL IV
WE CAN'T USE DEADLY FORCE INSIDE THE FACILITY WITHOUT THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZATION.
THIS IS THE DIRECTOR! HE'S GONE OFF TRACK! KILL HIM!

WE'RE COUNTERMANDING A DIRECTIVE. WHAT IF WE DON'T DO AS HE SAYS?
WHAT IF WE DO? WE COULD BE DESTROYED AS TRAITORS TO DOOM AND THE NEW UNITED STATES.
EITHER WAY WE'RE GOING TO BE FILLING OUT REPORTS UNTIL RETIREMENT.
YOU'LL ALL BE ARRESTED UNDER MY NEW ORDER!
FOLLOW ME AND SHE DIES!
PLEASE...
WHAT NOW?
THEY DIDN'T COVER THIS ONE AT THE ACADEMY.

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FOLLOW ME AND SHE DIES!

PLEASE...

WHAT NOW?

THEY DIDN'T COVER THIS ONE AT THE ACADEMY.

OBEY ME! OBEY MY COMMANDS!
THIS IS A SECURITY MONITORING BLIND SPOT
I CAN CANCEL THIS CHARADE.
NO MORE NEED FOR HOLO-GALLOWS.
THE DOGS HAVE BEEN CALLED.
I ONLY HAVE TO LEAD THEM TO THE DIRECTOR'S QUARTERS...
...AND DOOM IS SAFE FROM ANOTHER POSSIBLE ENEMY.
AGENT SAFFRON TO CONTROL! GALLOWS HAS RELEASED ME AND SEALED HIMSELF INSIDE HIS QUARTERS!
I THINK HE HAS AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN THERE!
THAT'S A GO! LEVEL EIGHTY EAST HALL!

IN A TUNNEL, THE CYBER NOSTRA FINDS...
WHAT IS IT?
MAMA, IT'S UGLY.
AND IT STINKS!
UNAUTHORIZED.
UNIDENTIFIED.
THREAT IMMINENT.
TERMINATE.
SCANNING.
LIFE SIGNS ZERO.
GALLOWS NOT PRESENT.

APPARENT. EXPLOSIVE. DEVICE.
CONFIRMING.
ACME
BIG BOY MK III
CONFIRMING.
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC DEVICE.
DESIGN. CONFIGURATION. DETERMINING.
FUSE. COMMUNICATIONS. SYSTEMS. MICROWAVE. LASER. RADIO.
POTENTIAL. USE. BY. THIS UNIT.
ACTUAL.
RE-PROGRAMMED. SLAVED.

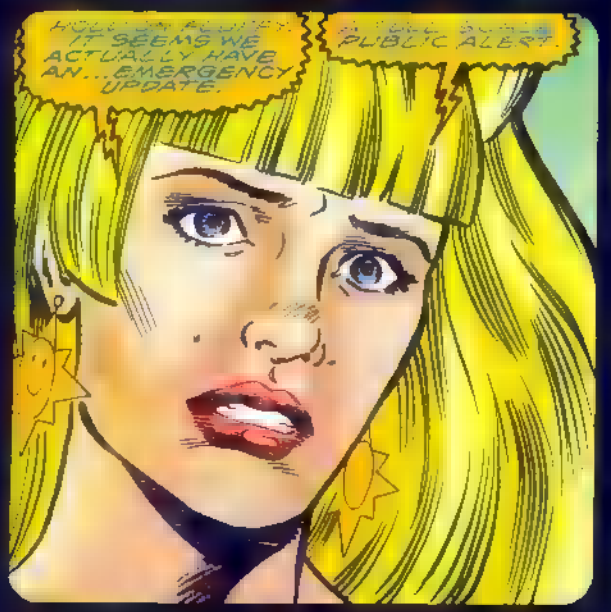
GALLOWS HAS THE DOOR MAGNETICALLY FUSED.
HE'S GOING TO BE EXPECTING US.
IT'S NOT GOING TO DO HIM MUCH GOOD.
WHAT ARE THESE?
THEY'RE NOT TOYS...
BWOOM

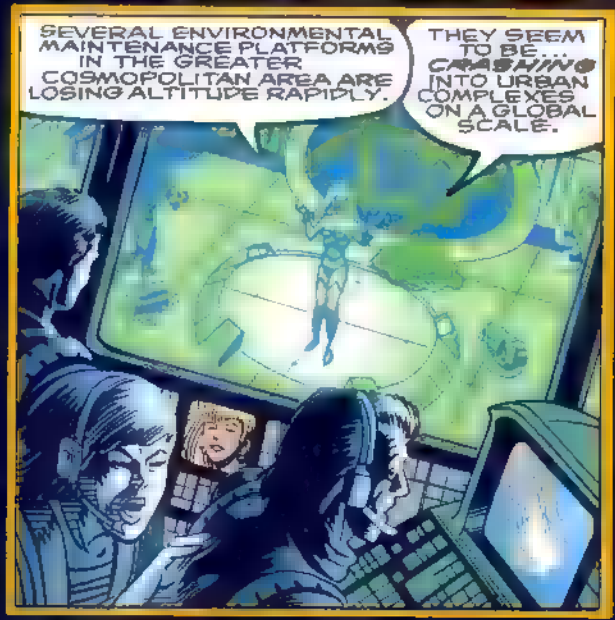
CONCUSSION ROUNDS!
IT'S GALLOWS!
THIS WON'T KILL YOU, BUT YOU MIGHT WISH IT HAD!
JUST A FEW THOUSAND VOLTS.
AAAAHRRRR!
INSERTION TEAM TO BASE, REINFORCEMENTS NOW!
AND SHUT DOWN LIFE SUPPORT FOR THIS WHOLE LEVEL!

ULTIMA UNIT, HAVE GALLOWS LOCATED DOWN ON LEVEL EIGHTY-TWO. ELEVATOR
MOVING IN HEAVY ARMAMENT.
NO ACCESS
GALLOWS ACQUIRED.
LOCKED DOWN.
EIGHTY-TWO LEVELS TO GO.
WE'RE IN IT UP TO OUR NECKS, WONG.
WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG, RIGHT?
HAVE SOME OXYGEN, KID.

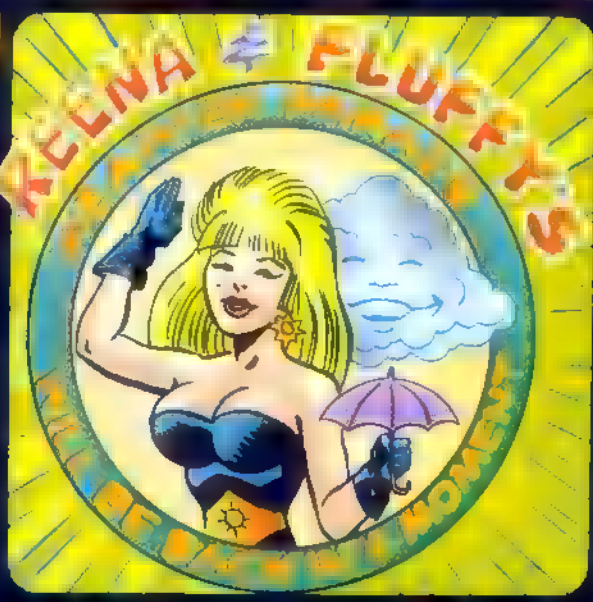
PRE-PLANNED WEATHER PATTERNS FOR TODAY ARE AS FOLLOWS.
SECTORS NINE THROUGH THIRTEEN WILL BE EXPERIENCING LIGHT RAIN FROM NOON UNTIL FOUR-THIRTY.

ANY SURPRISES TODAY FLUFFY?
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, KELENA! WITH TOTAL CLIMATE CONTROL ABSOLUTELY MY METROPOLITAN WEATHER--
--WE HAVE LOVELY EXTERIOR CONDITIONS ALL DAY!


IT SEEMS WE ACTUALLY HAVE AN...EMERGENCY UPDATE.
PUBLIC ALERT.


SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS IN THE GREATER COSMOPOLITAN AREA ARE LOSING ALTITUDE RAPIDLY.
THEY SEEM TO BE CRASHING INTO URBAN COMPLEXES ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

ADVISE CITIZENS TO SEEK SHELTER IN SUBBASEMENTS OR LOWER--
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!


KELENA & FLUFFY'S
MOMENT

WHAT COULD INTERFERE WITH THE TERMINAL'S---
INTERCITY FLIGHT NINE-ELEVEN COMING INTO SHARPTON AIR TERMINAL. CAN YOU GIVE US A GRID?
SCREEN'S GONE DEAD, SIR.
SIR!

KER-KRASH!

WHAT COULD INTERFERE WITH THE TERMINAL'S--

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SCREEN'S GONE DEAD, SIR.

SIR!

KER-KRASH

UHNNH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SEISMIC SHOCK OFF THE SCALE!
UNLESS IT'S NOT SHIELD.
HANG ON, WONG. THESE GUYS WANT ME BAD ENOUGH TO BRING THE WHOLE BUILDING DOWN.
NO PLACE GOOD, WONG. WHATEVER'S GOING ON, WE'RE THE MIDDLE OF IT.
WHUH--WHUH--WHERE ARE WE, DIRECTOR?

I THINK I PICKED A BAD TIME TO WAKE UP.
YOU THINK ANYONE WANTS ME BAD ENOUGH TO TEAR THE CITY DOWN TO GET ME?
I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO KEEP ON BEING MY ASSISTANT, WONG.
I'LL SEND IN MY RESIGNATION IN THE MORNING.

COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT LAST ENTRY, COMPUTER?
ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLATFORMS ARE FAILING GLOBALLY.
THEY ARE IMPACTING ON POPULATION CENTERS. DEATH TOLLS COULD REACH A BILLION OR MORE
THE ENTIRE PLANET'S INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN JEOPARDY.
MY LUCK, RIGHT?
JUST WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THE KIND OF FIREPOWER I NEED THE WORLD GOES AND ENDS.
SHOULD I CONTINUE MONITORING THE SITUATION, VENDETTA?
RUN
SURE.
LET'S HAVE ALL THE BAD NEWS.

TIME. TO. IMPACT.
THREE. SECONDS.
TWO. SECONDS.
ONE.
DROPPING. TO. SHAFT. FLOOR.
RATE. OF. FALL. METERS. PER. SECOND.
AND. ACCELERATING.

ANOTHER EXPLOSION--SOUNDS LIKE IT'S BELOW US.
MY SCANNER JUST WENT DEAD.
COM-UNIT'S OUT. SOMETHING'S FUSED HERE.
MAYBE GALLOWS CAN WAIT UNTIL THIS EMERGENCY'S OVER.
IF HE SURVIVED.
WITH ALL THIS GOING ON, WHO CARES?
I CARE.
ZOOM CARES.
AND IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS YOU'D BETTER START CARING, TOO. GALLOWS MUST BE FOUND, DEAD OR ALIVE.

THE CITY IS DESTROYED.
THAT'S TRUE OF THE SURFACE ANYWAY. I'M NOT PICKING UP SHIELD TRANSMISSIONS.
THE AIRWAVES ARE WIPED CLEAN OF ANY TRAFFIC AROUND SHIELD CENTRAL. THERE'S AN ELECTRO-MAG FLUX IN EVERY DIRECTION.
OUR TRAIL WILL GO COLD NOW.
TRAIL TO WHERE?
WHO'S AFTER YOU? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS SAFFRON SPEAKING TO ME AND--
THEN IT'S DOOM WHO WANTS ME DEAD. SAFFRON WAS HIS INSTRUMENT. I SUSPECTED HE WAS USING HER TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME.
NOW I'M NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO HIM.
YOU REALLY THINK DOOM WOULD GO TO ALL THIS JUST TO NAIL YOU? ISN'T THAT OVERKILL?
OVERKILL?
NEVER HEARD OF IT.

IF DOOM IS AFTER YOU THEN THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH FOR YOU TO HIDE.
I WASN'T PLANNING ON HIDING ON EARTH.
POWER GRIDS ARE DOWN ALL OVER. COMMUNICATION LINES ARE BLITZED.
THE MACHINE IS OFF LINE AND I CAN'T RAISE IT. GOOD TIME TO BOLT.
ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IS THAT GALLOWS IS AMONG THE JILLIONS OF CASUALTIES ABOVE.
GOOD THING I PLANNED FOR A RAINY DAY. NEVER THOUGHT IT'D GET THIS RAINY.

THAT'S MY RIDE OUTTA HERE.
LIFE SUPPORT STATUS.
23
LIFE SYSTEMS AT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AND POWERED. SHELL LOADED WITH SUPPLIES AND READY FOR TWO MONTHS DUTY.
HOW CAN THAT BE?
I ONLY DECIDED AN HOUR AGO TO LOAD MYSELF INTO THIS THING TO BE CARGO-HAULED OFF PLANET.
HOW COULD THE COMPUTER HAVE ANTICIPATED MY DECISION?
IT DIDN'T.
BUT I DID.

THOUGHT I FORGOT THIS LITTLE CONTINGENCY, MATT?
YOU'RE GOING TO LOAD ME INTO THIS BIO-SHELL AND SHIP ME OUT OF HARM'S WAY AND OUT OF EARTH'S ORBIT.
AND IF YOU TRY ANYTHING... VENGEFUL MY FRIEND HERE WILL BLAST SOME NEW ACCESS PORTS IN YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED--